

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 00510 201619Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0510

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, BR

SUBJECT: SENATOR JAVITS DISCUSSES BRAZIL'S STATUS AS DEVELOPING
COUNTRY WITH BRAZILIAN LEADERS

REF: BRASILIA 0415 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN HIS CONVERSATIONS JANUARY 7 IN BRASILIA WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD GOLBERY,
AND MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY UEKI, SENATOR JAVITS
DISCUSSED WHAT HE SAW AS BRAZIL'S UNIQUE STATUS AS A COUNTRY
ON THE THRESHOLD OF, OR PASSING THROUGH THE DOOR TO, FULLY
DEVELOPED STATUS. END SUMMARY.

1. JAVITS EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THE EXTENT AND PACE OF
BRAZIL'S RAPID DEVELOPMENT SHOULD LEAD IT TO CONSIDER ITSELF
IN THE FIRST WORLD AND TO BE THINKING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN
DC ORGANIZATIONS LIKE IEA AND OECD. WHILE EXPRESSING SOME
INTEREST IN IDEA OF OECD MEMBESHIP, SINCE BRAZIL HAS A
MARKET ECONOMY, SILVEIRA QUESTIONED HIS COUNTRY'S READINESS
FOR MEMBERSHIP SINCE, NOTWITHSTANDING THE DEVELOPMENT,
IT IS NOT YET A DEVELOPED COUNTRY. HE STATED THAT BRAZIL
WAS "IN TRANSITION". HE EXPAINED THAT BRAZIL STILL SUFFERS
FROM VAST DISPARITIES OF DEVELOPMENT AND INCOME BETWEEN
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 00510 201619Z

REGIONS AND BETWEEN SOCIAL CLASSES. MOREOVER, BRAZIL HAS

NOT ACHIEVED AUTONOMY IN DEALING WITH VITAL ECONOMIC DECISIONS. HE SAW IMPORTANT DECISIONS, SUCH AS PRICES AND MARKETS FOR BRAZIL'S EXPORTS, AS COMPLETELY BEYOND BRAZIL'S POWER TO INFLUENCE. IN THIS RESPECT, HE NOTED THAT BRAZIL IS A MAJOR PRODUCER AND EXPORTER OF SOYBEANS WITH A 9 MILLION TON ANNUAL PRODUCTION, BUT PRICES IT WILL RECEIVE ON THE MARKETS OPEN TO IT DEPEND ON WHAT HAPPENDED IN THE US.

2. GOLBERY, FOR HIS PART, RESPONDED TO THE SENATOR BY SAYING THAT BRAZIL'S STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT FITTED IT FOR THE ROLE OF A BRIDGE OR AN INTERPRETER BETWEEN THE FIRST AND THIRD WORLDS. HIS COMMENTS IMPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THIS ROLE WOULD CONTINUE. UEKI, ON THE OTHE HAND, SAW MUCH MERIT IN SENATOR'S IDEA OF BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN OECD AND, PARTICULARLY, IEA. VERY CAREFULLY STATING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ENTIRELY PERSONALLY, HE POINTED OUT THAT BRAZIL IS A COUNTRY WITH A MARKET ECONOMY WITH PROBLEMS, EXPERIENCE, AND INTERESTS COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF OTHER DEVELOPED WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT HE, AS A PRACTICAL MAN, CONSIDERED IT TO BE CLEARLY IN BRAZIL'S INTEREST TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE FIRST WORLD THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR 78 PERCENT OF THE GLOBAL OUTPUT RATHER THAN WITH THE WEAK AND RELATIVELY UNPRODUCTIVE THIRD WORLD. HE SAW LITTLE SYMPATHY IN BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE CONCEPT OF BRAZIL AS A THIRD-WORLD COUNTRY AND NOTED THAT PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND POLITICALLY THE BRAZILIANS NOW THINK OF BRAZIL AS DESTINED TO BECOME A RICH COUNTRY AND A FULL MEMBER OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD. THIS WAS REFLECTED IN FACT THAT BRAZILIANS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND WERE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD IT. REFERRING TO BRAZIL'S OVERRIDING INTEREST IN ACCESS TO CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY TO REACH FULLY DEVELOPED STATUS, HE NOTED THAT BRAZIL HAD DECLINED TO JOIN CARTELS OF SUCH RAW MATERIALS AS IRON ORE, BAUXITE, AND TUNGSTEN. THE SENATOR MADE THE GENERAL COMMENT IN RESPONSE TO UEKI'S OPINIONS ABOUT BRAZIL AND THE DEVELOPED WORLD THAT UEKI WAS TALKING HIS LANGUAGE.

3. SEE SEPTTEL FOR A REPORT OF AN INTERESTING FOLLOW-ON CONVERSATION BEWTEEN UEKI AND THE AMBASSADOR.
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PAGE 03 BRASIL 00510 201619Z

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